

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO: 964
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.09.2020

Forest Land

964. SHRI NIHAL CHAND:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the area-wise total lands reserved for forest land across the country State/UT-wise including Rajasthan;
- (b) whether any assessment has been done by the Government for the unauthorised occupancy of the said land for several years, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken by the Union Government to remove the unauthorised occupation and whether the States have been directed to take any action in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2019, the total Recorded Forest Area in the country is 7,67,419 square kilometre out of which 434,853 square kilometre is Reserve Forest. The State/Union Territory (UT) wise details are given in **Annexure-I**.
- (b) The information received from the States and UTs regarding encroachment on forest lands is given in **Annexure-II**.
- (c) The responsibility of protection of forests from various threats including encroachment primarily lies with the respective State or UT. The respective State Governments and UT Administrations take action in such cases as per the extant acts and rules. The Ministry issues advisories from time to time to all States and UTs to prevent and remove encroachment on forest land.

The States and UTs take various measures such as demarcation and digitization of forest boundaries, strengthening infrastructure for forest protection and involving fringe area forest communities such as Joint Forest Management Committees, Eco Development Committees etc. to prevent and check encroachments.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 964 due for answer on 18.09.2020 regarding 'Forest Land'

Recorded Forest Areas in States/UTs as per ISFR-2019

(Area in square kilometre)

State/ UT	Geographical Area (GA)	Recorded Forest Areas (RFA)			Total RFA (2019)
		Reserved Forests	Protected Forests	Unclassed Forests	
Andhra Pradesh	162,968	31,959	5,069	230	37,258
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	10,589	9,779	31,039	51,407
Assam	78,438	17,864	0	8,968	26,832
Bihar	94,163	693	6,183	1	6,877
Chhattisgarh	135,192	25,782	24,036	9,954	59,772
Delhi	1,483	78	24	0	102
Goa	3,702	253	0	972	1,225
Gujarat	196,244	14,373	2,886	4,388	21,647
Haryana	44,212	249	1,158	152	1,559
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	1,898	33,130	2,005	37,033
Jammu & Kashmir*	222,236	17,643	2,551	36	20,230
Jharkhand	79,716	4,387	19,185	33	23,605
Karnataka	191,791	28,690	3,931	5,663	38,284
Kerala	38,852	11,309	0	0	11,309
Madhya Pradesh	308,252	61,886	31,098	1,705	94,689
Maharashtra	307,713	49,546	6,733	5,300	61,579
Manipur	22,327	1,467	4,171	11,780	17,418
Meghalaya	22,429	1,113	12	8,371	9,496
Mizoram	21,081	4,483	0	1,158	5,641
Nagaland	16,579	234	0	8,389	8,623
Odisha	155,707	36,049	25,133	22	61,204
Punjab	50,362	44	1,137	1,903	3,084
Rajasthan	342,239	12,475	18,217	2,045	32,737
Sikkim	7,096	5,452	389	0	5,841
Tamil Nadu	130,060	20,293	1,782	802	22,877
Telangana	112,077	20,353	5,939	612	26,904
Tripura	10,486	4,175	2	2,117	6,294
Uttar Pradesh	240,928	12,071	1,157	3,354	16,582
Uttarakhand	53,483	26,547	9,885	1,568	38,000
West Bengal	88,752	7,054	3,772	1,053	11,879
A&N Islands	8,249	5,613	1,558	0	7,171
Chandigarh	114	32	0	3	35
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	199	5	0	204
Daman & Diu	111	0	0	8	8
Lakshadweep	30	0	0	0	0
Puducherry	490	0	2	11	13
Total	3,287,469	434,853	218,924	113,642	767,419

Source: State/UT Forest Departments

* Includes Jammu & Kashmir area outside LoC that is under illegal occupation of Pakistan and China.

Annexure II

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 964 due for answer on 18.09.2020 regarding 'Forest Land'

State/UT wise details of forest area under encroachment

S. No.	State/UT	Area under Encroachment (in hectares)
1	Andhra Pradesh	29800.5093
2	Bihar	132.21
3	Chhattisgarh	19330.64
4	Gujarat	157.8620
5	Goa	Nil
6	Haryana	153.51
7	Himachal Pradesh	4629.88
8	Jharkhand	26496.00
9	Jammu & Kashmir	10279.28
10	Karnataka	82,678.01
11	Kerala	7801.10
12	Madhya Pradesh	534717.28
13	Maharashtra	59663.851
14	Odisha	78505.08
15	Punjab	5363.05
16	Rajasthan	10839.76
17	Tamil Nadu	15129.863
18	Telangana	3056.00
19	Uttar Pradesh	26125.35
20	Uttarakhand	10649.11
21	West Bengal	10214.80
22	Arunachal Pradesh	58636.13
23	Assam	317215.39
24	Manipur	2213.82
25	Meghalaya	9850.525
26	Mizoram	9457.23
27	Nagaland	2479.96
28	Sikkim	2817.21
29	Tripura	6.77
30	A & N Islands	3,887.724
31	Chandigarh	14
32	D&N Haveli	0.08
33	Daman & Diu	87.83
34	Lakshadweep	Nil
35	Delhi	629.51
36	Puducherry	Nil

